

CLAIMS

1. A method of packaging goods having a liquid element, said liquid element comprising dissolved gases, wherein  
5 the liquid element is treated prior to said goods being subjected to a vacuum packing process, such that a  
11.2 substantial proportion of said dissolved gases does not escape from said liquid element during said vacuum packing process.
- 10 2. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the liquid element is treated by subjecting it to a gas removal process.
- 15 3. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the said gas removal process comprises subjecting said liquid element to an evacuation process in a vacuum packer.
4. A method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the said 20 evacuation process involves placing said liquid element in a container which is then placed in a cavity of the vacuum packer, said cavity subsequently being evacuated by means of a vacuum pump.
- 25 5. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said container has a volume of at least twice the volume of said liquid element.
- a 6. A method in accordance with Claims 4 or 5 wherein 30 liquid element when held in said container has an exposed surface area which is greater than the depth of the liquid in said container.

- ~~7. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said gas removal process involves cooking the liquid element.~~
- ~~8. A method in accordance with Claim 7, wherein cooking the liquid element involves heating it at boiling point.~~
- a ~~9. A method in accordance with any one of Claims 2-8 wherein the said gas removal process removes substantially all of the dissolved gases from the liquid element.~~
- 15 ~~10. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the liquid element is treated by subjecting it to a freezing process.~~
- 20 ~~11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein if said goods comprise a liquid element and a solid element, only said liquid element is subjected to said freezing process.~~
- 25 ~~12. A method in accordance with Claim 11, wherein if said goods comprise a liquid element and a solid element, both said liquid element and said solid element are subjected to said freezing process.~~
- 30 ~~a ~~13. A method in accordance with any one of the preceeding claims, wherein said vacuum packing process is any conventional vacuum packing process.~~~~
- 1 ~~14. A method in accordance with Claim 13, wherein said conventional packing process is a basic vacuum packing process or a gas flushing vacuum packing process.~~

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- or 15 A method in accordance with ~~any one of the proceeding~~  
claims, wherein said goods comprises foodstuffs.
- or 5 16. A method with in accordance with ~~any one of the~~  
~~proceeding claims~~ wherein said goods comprises a solid  
element and a liquid element.
- 10 17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein said solid  
element is perforated before said goods are subjected  
to said vacuum packing process.
- 15 18. A method according to Claim 17 wherein the surface at  
least of said solid element is perforated.
- or 19. A method according to Claim ~~17 or 18~~ wherein said solid  
element is perforated in a plurality of locations.
- 20 20. A method of vacuum packing goods having a liquid  
element, comprising the steps of subjecting said liquid  
element to a gas removal process, followed by  
subjecting the goods to a vacuum packing process.
- 25 21. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said gas  
removal process involves subjecting said liquid element  
to a vacuum.
- or 30 22. A method according to Claim ~~17 or 18~~, wherein said  
method further comprises the step of perforating a  
solid element of said goods, before submitting said  
goods to said vacuum packing process.

23. A method according to Claim 19, wherein said perforating step comprises piercing the surface at least of said solid element.

5 24. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said solid element is pierced in a plurality of locations.

~ 25. A method according to <sup>claim 19</sup> any one of Claims 17-19, wherein said vacuum packing process is a gas flushing vacuum packing process.

~ 26. A packaged foodstuff, packaged in accordance with <sup>claim 25</sup> any one of the preceding claims.

15 27. A method as herein before described.

28. A packaged foodstuff as herein before described.

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